

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1782
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04/08/2023

PROMOTION OF ORGANIC FERTILISER

1782. SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken measures to promote organic fertilisers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the outcome with respect to uptake of organic fertilisers in the country;
- (d) the expected benefits in this regard; and
- (e) measures proposed to be taken in this respect?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (e): Organic fertilizers are being promoted by the Government through schemes for promotion of organic farming namely Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) in the country since 2015-16. Both the schemes stress on end-to-end support to farmers engaged in organic farming i.e. from production to processing, certification and marketing and post-harvest management, training and Capacity Building are integral part of the scheme. Incentives to farmers for producing and using organic fertilizers/manure are inbuilt in these schemes as on-farm and off-farm organic inputs. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is provided to the farmers for using organic inputs including organic fertilizers. PKVY is being implemented in all the States other than North Eastern States across the country whereas MOVCDNER scheme is being implemented exclusively in the NE States.

Under PKVY, assistance of Rs. 50,000 per ha for a period of three years is provided for promotion of organic farming to cover different components like Training & Capacity Building, Data Management, PGS Certification, value addition, marketing and publicity. Out of this, the assistance of Rs. 31,000 per ha for a period of three years is provided to farmers through DBT for on- farm /off –farm organic inputs including organic fertilizers. Whereas under MOVCDNER, an assistance of Rs.

46,575/ha for 3 years is provided for creation of FPO, support to farmers for organic inputs, quality seeds/ planting material and training, hand holding and certification. Out of this, assistance @ Rs. 32500/ ha for 3 years is provided to farmers for off -farm /on –farm organic fertilizers and other organic inputs under the scheme including Rs. 15,000 as DBT to the farmers and Rs. 17,500 for the planting material to be given to the farmers by State Lead Agency (SLA) in kind.

In order to ensure the availability of good quality organic/bio-fertilizers, the Government of India regulates its quality under the Fertilizer Control Order (1985). Government has notified 32 quality testing laboratory and initiated steps to accredit its laboratories to strengthen quality control activities. Government has also developed a web portal (<https://frs.dbtfert.nic.in/>) for online registration of all kinds of fertilizers to make registration easier and simplified.

Government has announced “PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PM-PRANAM)” to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers. Under this programme, 50% of subsidy savings will be passed on as a grant to the state for promotion of organic and natural farming and organic fertilizers.

To promote the use of organic manures, Government has announced Market Development Assistance (MDA) @ Rs 1500/tonnes for Fermented Organic Manure (FOM), Liquid Organic Manure (LOM) and Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM).

Under Mission Life programme, Government is taking up various environment friendly initiatives to encourage natural and organic farming using organic fertilizer to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emission through reduced consumption of chemical fertilizer and pesticides.

Under Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), States are provided assistance to promote Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of Chemical Fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures and organic/bio-fertilizers. Under SHC scheme various training demonstration programme as well as farmer’s melas and workshops are organized.

To disseminate information on organic and natural farming as well as on on- farm production and use of various kinds of organic fertilizers, National Center for Organic and Natural Farming (NCONF) and its Regional Center for Organic and Natural Farming (RCONF) located at Ghaziabad, Nagpur, Bangalore, Imphal and Bhubaneswar are organizing various trainings namely, One Day Farmers’ Training, Two Days Training for Extension Officers/Staff, Two Days Training on PGS, 30 Days Certificate course, One day Jaivik evam Prakratik Kisan Sammelan for 500 participants, One Day Stakeholder consultations/ conferences on Natural Farming for 100 participants, Orientation Program on Natural Farming and awareness programmes across the country. NCONF and RCONF also organize online awareness campaign and training programmes on organic and natural farming and production and use of organic and bio-fertilizers.

The ICAR also imparts trainings, organizes front-line demonstrations, awareness programs etc. to educate farmers on organic farming and organic fertilizers.

With increasing awareness and Government initiatives to promote organic farming using organic fertilizers, the consumption of organic fertilizers has increased in the country. 11.85 lakh ha area has been brought under organic farming using organic fertilizer under PKVY scheme while, 1.73 lakh ha area has been covered under organic farming under MOVCDNER scheme. During 2020-21 and 2021-2022, the total production of organic fertilizers has been 429.40 lakh MT and 449.50 lakh MT respectively in the country.

Application of organic fertilizers improves soil health and fertility and ensures sustainable productivity. It improves water holding capacity of soils and rejuvenates the soil biological and microbial activity. Cost of cultivation is reduced due to on-farm production of organic fertilizers. It reduces Green House Gas (GHG) emission and mitigates climate change due to reduced consumption of chemical fertilizers.
